



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appl. No. : 09/051,565
Appellant : Dirk Seldeslachts
Filed : June 8, 1998
TC/A.U. : 1761
Examiner : Curtis Edward Sherrer

Confirmation No. 8146

Docket No. : 98-227
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

REPLY BRIEF

Sir:

This is in reply to the Examiner's Answer mailed on October 20, 2003.

REMARKS

In the Examiner's Answer mailed October 20, 2003, the Primary Examiner in Group Art Unit 1761 set forth his position in a way different from that previously understood by Appellant including the citation of *In re Chevenard*, 60 USPQ 239 (CCPA 1943). Of particular interest is the Examiner's contention that Perry teaches certain "common" knowledge. As will be pointed herein, the Examiner mischaracterizes this so-called "common" knowledge. As a consequence, Appellant is compelled by the Examiner's Answer to offer the following remarks.

From the outset of its treatise on engineering and use of liquid gas systems, the Perry Chemical Engineers' Handbook, hereinafter "Perry's Handbook", makes proper and important process distinctions between "absorption", "distillation", and "stripping", and teaches that these respective gas-liquid transactions are appropriately prosecuted through means specifically associated with their differing nature. More specifically, Perry's Handbook teaches, on the one hand, that "absorption" is the transfer of a soluble component in a gas phase mixture into a liquid absorbent whose volatility is low under process conditions; and, on the other hand, that "distillation" is the separation of the constituents of a liquid mixture via partial vaporization of